

# CTChiro

## Connecticut Chiropractic Association

2257 Silas Deane Highway  
Rocky Hill, Connecticut 06067

Statement of Leonard Kocis, DC, DACBOH  
Before the Human Services Committee  
HB 5427

### AAC The Inclusion of Chiropractic Services as an Optional Service Under the Medicaid Program February 10, 2011

Senator Musto, Representative Tercyak and members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Leonard Kocis. I am a Doctor of Chiropractic, Board Certified in Occupational Health. As the 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president and the Legislative Chairperson for the Connecticut Association, I am here today to speak on the inclusion of Chiropractic Physicians into the Connecticut Medicaid system.

Presently in our state we must find ways to reduce cost and improve outcomes in our health care system. With the passage of the federal health reform package, this need will become even greater, as Musculoskeletal disorders are one of the top reasons for health care visits. Low back pain is second only to the common cold in loss work time

What is clear is that the Medicaid patient with a painful condition will seek care; sometimes in the hospital emergency room, sometimes with an orthopedist. These choices are expensive. It is estimated that the cost for low back pain disorders is over 30 billion dollars a year. Studies that I have included for your review state that a visit to a doctor of chiropractic is another option for a visit that is NOT an added cost.

It has been shown that the cost of chiropractic visits are often 20-40% lower than usual costs of medical care. Multiple studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of treatment provided by Doctors of Chiropractic, for example: The American Pain Society and The American College Physicians in 2007 stated that manipulation was an effective procedure. The Mercer Health and Benefits study of 2009 stated "when considering the effectiveness and cost together, chiropractic physician care for low back and neck pain is highly cost effective". A 2010 BC/BS study found that if care was initiated with a chiropractor, this would lead to an annual cost saving of 2.3 million dollars for BC/BS of Tennessee. Our citizens should have the opportunity to access care from a greater list of providers, especially if that care is effective and provides a better cost savings. Finally, the inclusion of chiropractic physicians will help fill the ever widening gap of primary health providers by shifting the burden from M.D. to D.C. for certain conditions. If we have the foresight to change past habits, replace outdated concepts and embrace an integrated approach to health care, not only will we realize cost savings but we can increase the well-being of our citizens.